

REMARKS

Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 3, which was deemed to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 3 is canceled and claim 4 is amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim 8, found to contain allowable subject matter but objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, has been rewritten independent form.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-9 have also been amended to remove reference numerals from such claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 5 are rejected as being anticipated by US 6304374 (Hanzawa). The rejection is overcome by incorporating the limitations of claim 3, directed to allowable subject matter, into parent claim 1. Claims 2 and 5 depend from claim 1 and are thus allowable with claim 1. Removal of the rejection is respectfully sought.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 4763968 (Hanzawa '968) in view of US 5052789 (Kleinberg). The rejection is overcome by incorporating the limitations of claim 3, directed to allowable subject matter, into parent claim 1. Claims 6 and 7 depend from claim 1 and are thus allowable with claim 1. Removal of the rejection is respectfully sought.

Claims 9 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanzawa '968 in view of US 5861982 (Takahama et al.). The rejection is overcome by incorporating the limitations of claim 3, directed to allowable subject matter, into parent claim 1. Claim 9 depends from claim 1, and claim 12 depends from claim 9. So, claims 9 and 12 are allowable with claim 1. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanzawa '968 in view of Takahama et al. and further in view of US 20030165012 (Straehle et al.). The rejection is overcome by incorporating the limitations of claim 3, directed to allowable subject matter, into parent claim 1. Claim 10 depends from claim 9, which in turn depends from claim 1. Therefore, claim 10 is now also allowable. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 4448498 (Hanzawa '498) in view of Takahama et al. and further in view of US 6356088 (Simon et al.). The rejection is overcome by incorporating the limitations of claim 3, directed to allowable subject matter, into parent claim 1. Claim 11 depends from claim 9, which in turn

depends from claim 1. Therefore, claim 11 is now also allowable. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanzawa '498 in view of Takahama et al. and further in view of US 6081371 (Shioda et al.). The rejection is overcome by incorporating the limitations of claim 3, directed to allowable subject matter, into parent claim 1. Claim 13 depends from claim 9, which in turn depends from claim 1. Therefore, claim 13 is now also allowable. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanzawa '498 in view of Takahama et al. The rejection is overcome by incorporating the limitations of claim 3, directed to allowable subject matter, into parent claim 1. Claim 14 depends from claim 9, which in turn depends from claim 1. Therefore, claim 14 is now also allowable. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 4 and 8 is acknowledged with thanks. The claims have been amended such that all claims are now directed to allowable subject matter.

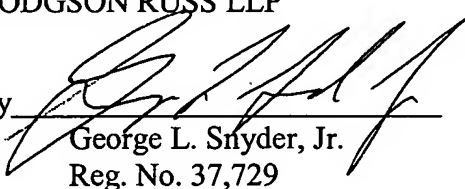
Conclusion

The present application is now thought to be in a condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration is kindly sought. If the Examiner has any questions, the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

HODGSON RUSS LLP

By


George L. Snyder, Jr.
Reg. No. 37,729

GLS/

One M&T Plaza, Suite 2000
Buffalo, New York 14203-2391
(716) 856-4000
DATED: November 4, 2005